There's a lot to chew on in this one, which looks at how humans have leveraged information networks such as print, stories, books and much more throughout the ages - in good ways and bad - and how a technology will exist that can leverage itself, with or without us, in ways we can't even grasp.

Harari discusses information itself - "wrestling with the received wisdom that more data = the truth" and deconstructing conviction by that no, it absolutely isn't, and that rather than being informative, it consists of organizing data in a very than means it comprehensible - in stories, true and false.

"Masterful and provocative." —Malcolm Gladwell
#1 New York Times bestselling author of SAPIENS
Yuval Noah
Harari
Nexus
A Brief History of Information Networks
from the Stone Age to AI

"The Exile"
A play by Tristan Bernard
(1866-1947)

Scene: a mountain cabin near a feather

The Mountaineer sits beside a fire.
There is a knock at the door.
The Exile enters the room.

EXILE: Whoever you are, have pity on a hunted man. There is a price on my head.

MOUNTAINEER: How much?

"There is no error
so monstrous
that it fails
to find defenders
among the ablest men."

-Lord Acton

Thomas Vose CC-BY-NC 8/6/25
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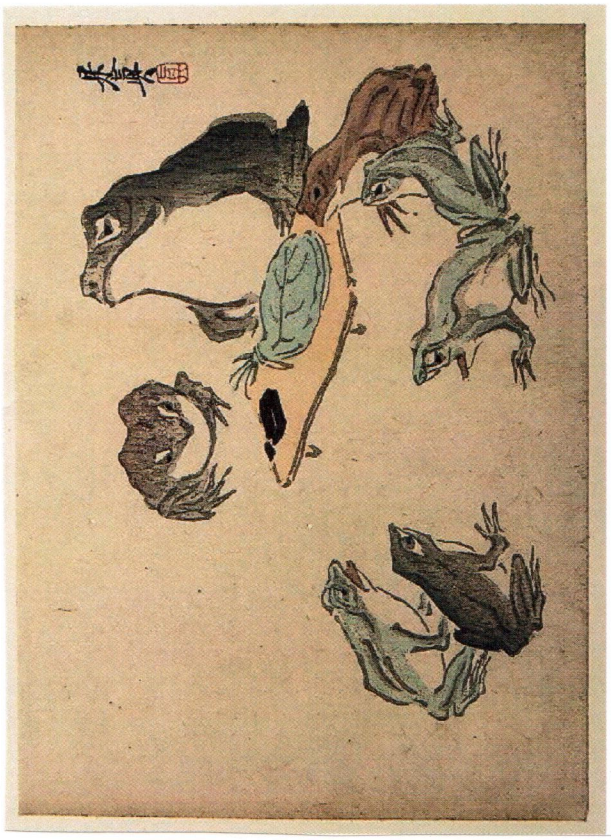

"Frogs"
Shibata Zeshin, 19th C.

The de Havilland Mosquito (DH-98) was one of Britain's top performing aircraft in WWII. It was light, very fast, and extremely flexible- used for bombing, fighting, and much more.

It was also made of wood glued together, often balsa wood - like a giant glider toy with bombs, guns and an engine. It topped out at over 400 MPH, with a full bomb payload.

Pepper Names:

Bell	Looks like a bell to someone.
Serrano	A pepper from the "highlands."
Jalapeño	From Jalapa/Xalapa in Veracruz.
Habañero	Named after the city of Havana.
Carolina reaper	Developed in South Carolina by a guy named Ed.
Ghost	Propely "bhut jolokia" - a pun in Assamese.
Hatch	Grown in the Hatch Valley in New Mexico.
Poblano	Named after Puebla, Mexico.
Scotch Bonnet	Supposedly looks like a tam o'shanter. (Not really)
Cayenne	From the Tupi word "kyynha" their name for it.
Banana	Looks like a banana. Duh.

Thanks to pissed-off monks, upset as his iconoclast policies for religious practices (bust up the images)

Constantine V (741-775) got saddled with the name "Copronymus" for all time - "Constantine the Shit."

(Don't piss off historians)

I know politicians have a reputation for being mercenary, but this seems a little on the nose.

Thanks for the laugh, through, Massachusetts State House.

These things are called Nixie tubes, and are used to display numbers in one of the most stylish ways possible. Seven-segment digital displays got another on these. They might be named after mythological water fae)

It basically works like a teeny-tiny neon lamp that lights up whatever number in the stack is needed at any given time.

"Not that Belladonna Took ever had any adventures after (she) became Mrs. Bungo Baggins."

This is the only time the word "she" ever appears in The Hobbit. Talk about failing the Bechdel Test.

(Bungo?)

SINCE LAST TIME...

- I've now been to libraries in 30 states
- Stared numbly at a house repairs list
- Trivi-ated for my peers
- Learned what vog is
- Hung out with rad librarians
- Enjoyed the summertime scents of Philadelphia streets
- Stayed at James Buchanan's favorite vacation spot (not the flex they think it is)
- Passed out mowing a huge lawn in the heat like a dumbass
- Found out that quite a few other people feel the same way I do about AI
- Got a sweet new 3D printer for the public at work
- J1 got his truck road-worthy at last
- Avoided blowing off fingers on the 4th but not crowds, which are arguably worse

If so, give it one without a bonum, and escape while it's trying to figure that out.

It may demand a barrel to fill your ship with waters (not that it needs the help)

it plays on our fears of missing out, our hopes for getting rich quick, and good old media hype.

People buying something either massively overvalued or completely worthless, on the assumption that even bigger fools will come along to pay even more.

(a.k.a. the basis of most of our economy)

GREATER FOOL THEORY

Umi bōzu ("sea monk") are yōgenhi yōkai said to inhabit the waters off of Japan.

It's a city!
It's a country!
It's an island!
It's Singapore!

The "Lion City"
(despite there being no lions anywhere nearby...)

- A small seaport for much of its early history, until the Brits got it
- Occupied in WWII, but kicked out the Japanese in 1945
- Kicked out the Brits in 1959
- Got kicked out of Malaysia themselves in 1965
- Huge GDP now, and very cosmopolitan

5 stars represent: democracy, peace, progress, justice & equality →

63 islands!

Botanical gardens that are a UNESCO heritage site!

Weird giant floating baby statue!

Will totally kill you if you try to bring in drugs!
(Mandatory death penalty)

Snails that glow in the dark!

Temple dedicated to (what is almost certainly not) one of Buddha's teeth!